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BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE HOME AND
INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

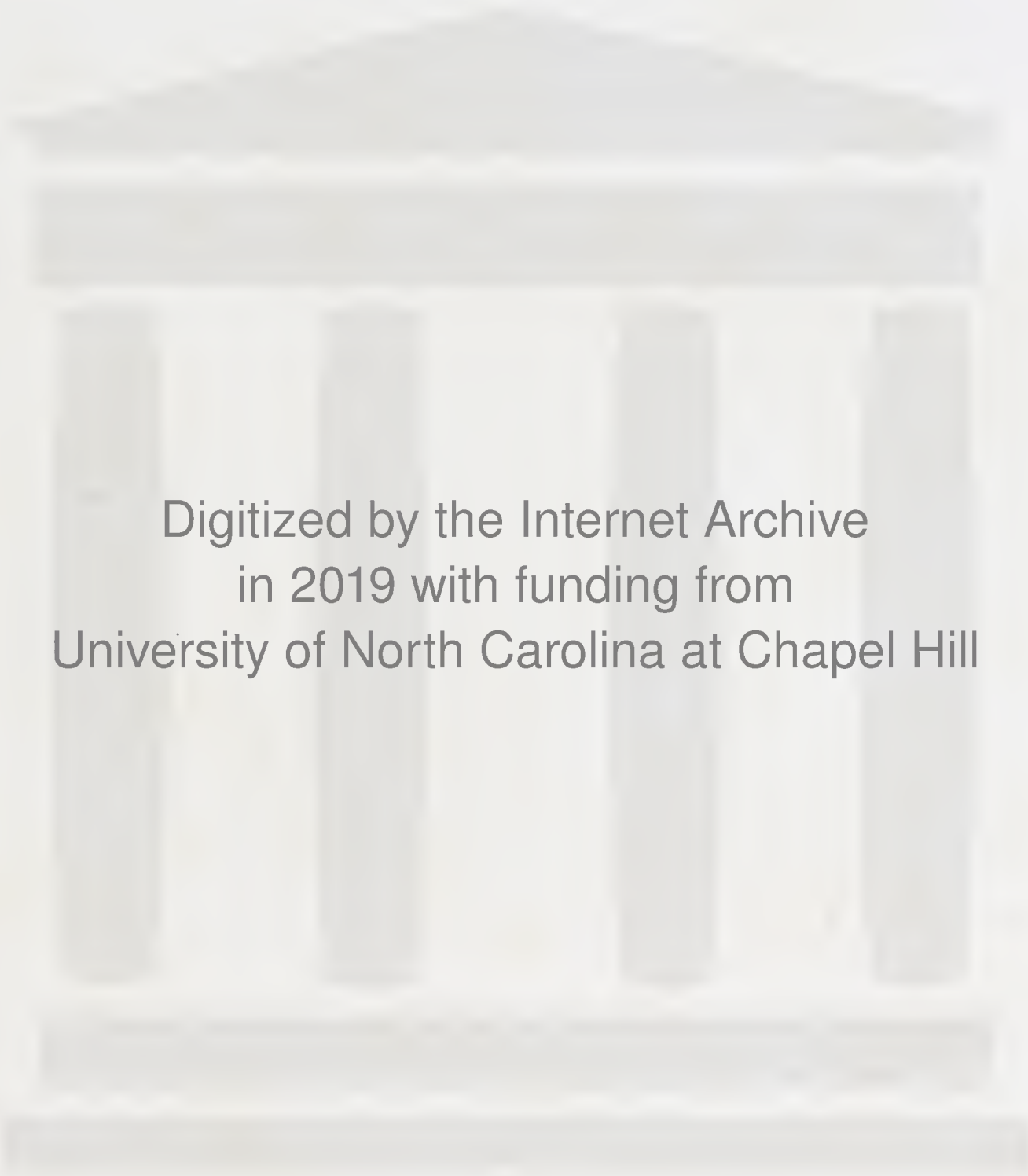
For Girls and Women

(Samarcand Manor)



SAMARCAND, N. C.

1917-1918



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SAMARCAND MANOR



THE COTTAGE



THE LAKE

BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

State Home and Industrial School

FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

(Samarcand Manor)

SAMARCAND, N. C.

1917-1918

RALEIGH
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*To His Excellency, T. W. BICKETT,
Governor of North Carolina.*

SIR:—Samarcand Manor, whose legal title is the State Home and Industrial School for Girls and Women, was established by act of Legislature in 1917, for the reclaiming and training of delinquents; \$25,000 was appropriated for the purchase of grounds and the erection of buildings, and \$10,000 annually for operating expenses.

In the summer of 1918, our Governor appointed a board of five persons who purchased the present site, consisting of 225 to 230 acres of land and a number of buildings, formerly owned and operated by Dr. C. H. Henderson as a private school for boys. This place is three miles from the station of Samarcand, on the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Moore County.

It may be reached over the Norfolk Southern which connects with the Seaboard at Aberdeen, or by changing at Star from the main line, coming in from Charlotte; also by the Southern, connecting at Ashboro.

The Superintendent chosen and engaged by the Board is Miss Agnes MacNaughton, and Samarcand, N. C., is the postoffice.

The persons who may be committed and the form of commitment is fully set forth in the act, and by opinion of the Attorney-General, and the clauses which refer to these matters are as follows:

“(1) A girl or woman, without reference to her age, who confesses guilt, or is convicted in any court of competent jurisdiction in the State of being (a) prostitute, (b) frequenter of disorderly houses or houses of prostitution.

“(2) A habitual drunkard, (b) a vagrant, (c) guilty of any other misdemeanor: *Provided*, that (and this applies to these three classes) it shall appear to the judge of the court passing judgment in the case that said woman is not a virtuous woman, and such fact should be found by the judge in his judgment, and incorporated in his commitment.

“(3) The provisions of chapter 222 of the Public Laws of 1915 do not apply unless the girls or women fall within these three above classes.”

The prison laws of North Carolina do, however, apply to the custody of the inmates.

I would wish to call the attention of the Governor and the Honorable the General Assembly to the fact that there is a contradiction in the law as it now stands which calls for legislative relief.

Habitual drunkards may be committed by the provisions, or those guilty of any other misdemeanor, yet it is provided that no woman shall be committed unless it shall appear to the judge that she is not a virtuous woman. We would ask and petition that this article (the last section of the present act) be stricken out, since it seems to be the way to make the whole act consistent without mutilating it.

The reason of this change is that at times there may come under the influence of this State Home those who, if not technically and provably not virtuous, are yet not innocent women, but guilty of other misdemeanors more easily provable, and none the less needing the reforming hand of the school in question, while the presumption is always existent that one of the misdemeanors mentioned always leads to any of the others.

The report of our Treasurer, of our Superintendent, and the minute book of our Secretary, all of which are submitted to his Excellency, Governor Bickett, and to the Assembly, will tell of the organization and the conduct of the Home during its first half-year, and of the use we have made of the money intrusted to us.

We are asking for a larger maintenance or expense fund for our use during the next two years, so that we may take proper care of the prospective inmates, and provide a suitable equipment for their industrial training. The Board is grateful to Mr. Beasley for his help in locating this institution, and his advice in the launching of its work; to Mr. J. R. Page of Aberdeen for many acts of disinterested kindness to the Board and the Superintendent; to Mr. R. Pumpelly of Samarcand, and to Mrs. Martha P. Falconer, the representative of the U. S. War Department, "Section of Reformatories and Houses of Correction," for much wise counsel and several visits of oversight, which were most beneficial to the interests of the State in many ways.

It may be proper for the persons interested to know that Mrs. Falconer considers Samarcand Manor as one of her favorites among all the new institutions building or newly built in the Southern States, by consideration of its situation, its prospects, and the policy of its management.

Respectfully submitted,

A. A. McGEACHY,
President of the Board.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

SAMARCAND, N. C., January 10, 1919.

To the President of the Board of Directors of Samarcand Manor.

MR. PRESIDENT:—The fundamental idea of Samarcand Manor is that every girl upon entering leaves her past behind her and begins life anew. The underlying principles of her training are the preparation of the girl for a useful life by knowledge acquired through practical experience in such lines as laundry work, cooking, sewing, and general housework; the development of her mind by fitting her into the proper grade that she may advance as rapidly as her intellect will allow; and the physical development of each girl by medical attention, plenty of fresh air, outdoor exercise, and good wholesome food. With these as a foundation we hope to raise the moral standard of each girl so that a gradual growth of moral sense within her may create the desire to live right, and thus enable her to take her place once more in society.

In reviewing what has been accomplished since the opening of Samarcand Manor in September, we feel that we have made but slight progress towards our goal when we think of our plans for the future.

Among the improvements may be mentioned the installation of electric lights and a telephone, the addition of a screened sleeping-porch, the ceiling and flooring and reinforcement of the underpinning of part of the Manor-house.

The number of girls has increased from two in September to twenty-six at the time of writing, with applications coming in daily. Owing to the great need for garments more time has been devoted to sewing than will be necessary in the future.

Our School of Letters has just opened with over twenty-five per cent who can neither read nor write. This high degree of illiteracy is found to be among the girls who have been working in the mills.

So far we have been unable to give our farm much attention owing to more urgent needs elsewhere. The expected arrival of a trained woman farmer early this spring will open up a new field of activity for the girls as well as supply the needs of the institution.

We have recently acquired about sixty registered Rhode Island Reds. This opens up a course in scientific poultry instruction for our girls under the supervision of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

So far the spirit of our girls has been remarkable. They have tried to live up to the unusual freedom given them because of the absence of locks and bolts on the Manor-house, such as are usually necessary for the first three months in preparing the girl for the responsibilities and duties of an Honor Cottage.

Respectfully submitted,

AGNES B. MACNAUGHTON,
Superintendent.

REPORT OF W. S. BLAKENEY, TREASURER

To GOVERNOR T. W. BICKETT and the General Assembly of North Carolina.

On May the 16th, 1918, a commission was issued by Governor Bickett to the undersigned as a member of the Board of Managers of the State Home and Industrial School for Girls and Women, authorized to be established by chapter 255, Public Laws of 1917, to serve for a term of three years. On the 28th of May, 1918, I met with the other members of the Board in the Senate Chamber in Raleigh, when and where an organization was perfected under the act creating this corporation, and, at this first meeting of the Board, was elected Treasurer of the institution. The matters pertaining to the organization and further conduct of its affairs will, no doubt, be fully covered by reports of other officials; and this report is submitted simply to render an account of my stewardship in handling the duties of a financial nature imposed upon me as Treasurer.

Under section 11, chapter 255, of the Public Laws of North Carolina, 1917, the sum of \$10,000 per annum is appropriated to be used in defraying the expenses of this institution: *Provided*, that the bond issue of \$25,000 for the building of this home became a law. Inasmuch as this bond issue did become a law, and the proceeds from the sale of the bonds, to wit, \$25,000, were converted into the State Treasury, it became the duty of the Governor to select the personnel of the Board of Managers to set the institution going. By direction of the Board, I prepared and had printed a form of voucher to be used in all payments and expenses incurred. These vouchers take the form of an order on the Treasurer of the Board, signed by the Secretary and countersigned by the President, specifying the date, to whom payable, for what payable, in serial numbers, and further stating that when properly endorsed and accepted by the Treasurer the same becomes a check on the bank for the amount ordered paid. We require all bills to be itemized and presented to the Secretary, and, by this process, all payments are scrutinized by three officers of the corporation, and at the meetings of the Board these bills and vouchers are brought to the attention of the whole Board in order that the exact situation, financially, may be known to each member.

Under the orders of the Board, our Secretary, Mrs. J. R. Chamberlain, advertised for bids for a site for the proposed institution, and the undersigned, together with Mr. R. F. Beasley, Commissioner of Public Welfare, was appointed to investigate all propositions submitted and report to the Board our findings and recommendations. It was the opinion of the Board that the ideal location for the proposed institution should be so isolated as to avoid prospective litigation on the part of inhospitable neighbors, and thus also render escape of the inmates more difficult to accomplish. Moreover, the institution should not be a menace, morally, to the community where located, yet it must be within a reasonable distance of transportation facilities in order to obtain the necessary supplies, and, at the same time, not be too onerous to reach by officers of the law in obeying the orders of the court in bringing in the membership. The Board also considered that we needed a farm of two or three hundred acres, well drained and watered, with good soil and climatic conditions, in order to give the inmates good and useful employment in the open air in gardening, trucking, dairying, stock raising, poultry

raising, and any other agricultural pursuit likely to develop a wholesome life for the inmates, and, eventually, to aid in making the institution self-supporting. These conditions made the problem of securing a site and erecting the necessary buildings thereon appear almost insurmountable in view of the enormous cost of material during 1918, the almost practical impossibility of obtaining same within a reasonable time, and the further fact that the Legislature had only provided a bond issue of \$25,000 with which to accomplish all this.

We at once concluded that it was inadvisable to undertake to buy land and commence building operations, such as would be necessary, circumscribed with such conditions and with such financial limitation. Accordingly we set out to find a suitable site having, at least, buildings that would be sufficient for a beginning and set the institution going without having an interminable delay. To make a long story short, we discovered and bought 22½ acres of land on Drowning Creek, in Moore County, from Dr. C. Hanford Henderson, on which was located a complete plant used as a select school for boys, and which was about to be discontinued on account of the protracted illness of the owner and proprietor, and the further fact that all the teachers had volunteered or had been drafted for service in the war. This discovery was no less than providential, because all the conditions above mentioned were here fully met and a sufficient plant for our purposes was obtained almost ready for immediate occupancy. The main building is two stories high, with kitchen, pantries, dining-hall, classrooms, concert and assembly hall, library, and numerous dormitories, all fitted out with good plumbing, waterworks, sewerage, etc., in first-class condition. In addition, there is close at hand a two-story cottage, with apartments opening into pleasant sitting halls, and the building equipped with waterworks, shower baths, etc. About 250 yards from the main building stands a good-sized barn, well arranged, and between the two is a large garden for vegetables, in which a good beginning has been made. The farm is bounded on one side by Drowning Creek, a noble stream of clear sand-hill water, which, further on, becomes Lumber River. Just below the main buildings is an artificial lake of clear water, formerly used by the boys of the school for bathing, fed by a stream of clear, pure water, on which is located two rams which pump water into a tank high enough to supply this entire plant with water by gravity. The land is densely wooded except for a two- or three-horse farm in cultivation, now rented out for a part of the crop, and all is, for the most part, well adapted to agricultural development.

Along with this purchase we obtained nearly all the furniture and fittings of the buildings, certain live-stock, and all tools and implements incident to the farm, which are considerable. The main building contains a large range and complete kitchen and dining-room outfit sufficient for, say, 100 inmates. The library contains over 1,000 volumes of standard literature and a new set of Encyclopedia Britannica. The concert or assembly hall is quite capacious, and contains a piano worth about \$1,000. The mattresses, bedding, blankets, etc., are quite considerable. The land, with all the buildings, furnishings, and equipment, cost us \$22,500, and is a tribute to the magnanimity of Dr. Henderson in this transaction. We believe the property is worth at least \$50,000, and could scarcely be duplicated at this figure. We want to say here and now that the State is under great obligation to Dr. Henderson for the generosity and spirit which he manifested in this transaction, and especially

when we remember that he is a native of a distant State. It is more to his credit that his humanitarian instincts are not circumscribed by his environment, but are as broad as humanity itself.

The title to this property was passed upon by competent attorneys, and an exhaustive abstract was prepared at considerable expense to Dr. Henderson. Since that time we have been fortunate to secure a deed to a bungalow, situate near the main building, formerly belonging to one of the professors in Dr. Henderson's school, at the price of \$500, and this we propose to make the nucleus of an entrance hospital for infected patients, where they may be treated and brought into a state of reasonable physical condition before entering the work of the institution proper and being thrown with the other inmates. The buildings and furnishings of this plant, which we now call Samarcand Manor School, are insured now in the total sum of \$18,750, and these policies and all the documents of title will be deposited with the Secretary of State for safe-keeping.

Since we came into possession of this property it has been impossible to accomplish much in the way of improvements on the meager preliminary appropriation of \$10,000 per annum for maintenance made by the Legislature, but we have out of that fund employed an experienced Superintendent of rare accomplishments to get the institution going, and she has surrounded herself, under the counsel and advice of the Board, with an able corps of assistants, and the institution has been in good running order now for several months, and is doing a work which, in our humble judgment, well justifies its inauguration. We have put in a complete Delco Lighting System at a cost of about \$1,500. We have bought an automobile and trailer for the transfer of the inmates to and from the railroad and for the transaction of the business of the institution. We have bought sewing machines and much cloth, etc., for the employment of the inmates; we have procured a fine lot of blooded poultry, and added to our live-stock; we have done considerable repairs to the buildings and made some improvements thereto. We have bought cypress poles and arranged for a complete telephone system of connections through the Bell people at Samarcand station, a distance of about four miles on the Norfolk Southern Railway, and believe that we are ready to receive a much larger influx of girls to the institution, provided this General Assembly will reach the conclusion that here is an institution worthy to be supported with an increased appropriation.

It would be absurd to think of maintaining an institution of this character upon an annual appropriation of \$10,000 under present, or any other, conditions. The institution should have died in the burning rather than have such a fate. A reasonable salary for the Superintendent and her corps of assistants would require nearly half of this, to say nothing of the repairs and upkeep of the buildings. The size of the appropriation should largely depend, of course, upon the number of girls received at the institution, and their board at present would cost from fifty to seventy-five cents per day per capita, to say nothing of their clothing and other expenses. The institution could now take care of near 100 inmates, and we believe that it will be filled to its capacity as soon as its merits and saving qualities are known to the courts and recognized by the public. Without knowing for a fact how popular the institution will be in the near future, I respectfully submit that the annual appropriation should be fixed at \$35,000 by the Legislature now in session, and this opinion is concurred in by our entire Board. We are fully aware that it is

the custom of managers of State institutions to continually ask the Legislature for more money, and, for this reason, we would prefer for your honorable bodies to send committees to Samarcand Manor School in order to make thorough investigations and report back before the appropriation is made or changed. Only slight investigation will reveal the great merits of this as compared with other State institutions, and sober second thought will cause it, as a humanitarian proposition, to loom up large in your estimation. In speaking of this aspect of the matter, perhaps I have gone out of my province, and so I conclude this report with the statement that my receipts and disbursements are ready to be audited by any authority at any time, and that all accounts and vouchers are open for inspection. The Board of Managers and the officers thereof are gladly giving their time and labors free of charge.

Respectfully submitted,

W. S. BLAKENEY, *Treasurer.*

